

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden in Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at place unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of the public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected the render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our

intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The 56-signatures on the Declaration appear in the positions indicated:

[COLUMN 1]

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.

[COLUMN 2]

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton.

[COLUMN 3]

Massachusetts: John Hancock.
Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton.
Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

[COLUMN 4]

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.
Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean.

[COLUMN 5]

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.
New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.

[COLUMN 6]

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple.
Massachusetts: Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.
Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.
Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.
New Hampshire: Matthew Thornton.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FOSSELLA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and tomorrow on account of traveling abroad with a USO tour in support of American troops serving overseas.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and

extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHAFFER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PORTMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHAFFER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, and as the designee of the majority leader, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, 106th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 1999, for morning-hour debates.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock midnight), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, the House adjourned until Monday, July 12, 1999, at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2817. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Recordkeeping—received June 4, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2818. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Economic and Public Interest Requirements for Contract Market Designation—received June 4, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2819. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Representations and Disclosures Required by Certain IBs, CPOs and CTAs—received June 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2820. A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Programs Guaranteed Loans (RIN: 0575-AC17) received May 20, 1999,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2821. A letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Group Risk Plan of Insurance (RIN: 0563-AB06) received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2822. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Program to Assess Organic Certifying Agencies [Docket Number LS-99-04] (RIN: 0581-AB58) received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2823. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to authorize the transfer of certain resources to the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility/Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2824. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Determining the Write-Your-Own Expense Allowance (RIN: 3067-AC92) received June 4, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2825. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Share Insurance and Appendix—received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

2826. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Education—Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities—received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2827. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (RIN: 1840-AC57) received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2828. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Alternative Fuel Transportation Program; Biodiesel Fuel Use Credit [Docket No. EE-RM-99-BIOD] (RIN: 1904-AB-00) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2829. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions and Deletions—received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2830. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Expansion and Continuation of Thrift Savings Plan Eligibility; Death Benefits; Methods of Withdrawing Funds from the Thrift Savings Plan; and Miscellaneous Regulations—received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2831. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior,

transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Plant *Eriogonum apicum* (inclusive of vars. *apicum* and *prostratum*) (lone Buckwheat) and Threatened Status for the Plant *Arctostaphylos myrtifolia* (lone Manzanita) (RIN: 1018-AE25) received May 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2832. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Migratory Bird Hunting; Withdrawal of Regulations Designed to Reduce the Mid-Continent Light Goose Population (RIN: 1018-AF05) received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2833. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation which would reauthorize and amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act; to the Committee on Resources.

2834. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bycatch Rate Standards for the Second Half of 1999 [Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 052499E] received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2835. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-water Species Fishery by Vessels using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 0423699A] received June 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2836. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 060899C] received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2837. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Whiting Closure for the Mothership Sector [Docket No. 981231333-9127-03; I.D. 052799E] received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2838. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 060499C] received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2839. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938; to the Committee on the Judiciary.